

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

**Cindy Jaquith: 55-year cadre
of Socialist Workers Party**
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Medicine in the US is capitalist business, not for health care

BY TERRY EVANS

One of the excuses given by the capitalist rulers for their shutdown of production is the need to use their resources to fight COVID-19. But the social crisis working people face today reveals that there is no such thing as “health care” for the working class and other exploited layers of the population under capitalism.

For the owners of hospitals, insurance and drug companies all aspects of so-called health care are run to maximize profit. Their starting point is cutthroat competition to corner the market in the most lucrative operations, not to use advances in medicine to provide preventive and hands-on health care for all.

The five richest private hospital systems in New York City — NYU-Langone, New York-Presbyterian, Northwell, Mount Sinai and Montefiore — spent a total of \$149 million on advertising last year.

At the same time hospital bosses are pushing pay cuts and furloughing nurses and other workers. Those who remain on the job are pushed to do their work and that of those laid off, inevitably making conditions worse.

This is true of even the most profitable private hospitals. The top-ranked hospital in the U.S. — the Mayo Clinic — has furloughed workers.

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Demand jobs! Back fights over wages, job conditions!



Evan Abell /Yakima Herald-Republic via AP

May 14 strike picket at Columbia Reach Pack fruit processing in Yakima, Washington. Workers at 6 plants are demanding 40-hour workweek, clean water, wage increase and job safety.

Fight for gov't-funded public works program to create jobs

Alyson Kennedy, the Socialist Workers Party 2020 candidate for president, issued the following statement May 19. Malcolm Jarrett is the party's candidate for vice president.

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

Strikes by workers at fruit packing plants in Washington state and independent truckers protesting in Washington, D.C., show the way forward

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Support workers' resistance against bosses, their gov't

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Workplace skirmishes, strikes, public protests and other resistance by workers and farmers are growing to challenge attacks today by bosses and their government on our jobs, wages and working conditions.

They have imposed crippling lockdowns on jobs and production, laying

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‘Militant’ gives voice to today’s struggles by working people

BY SETH GALINSKY

As growing numbers of workers are beginning to fight back against attacks on wages and working conditions today, Socialist Workers Party members are joining in and its candidates are calling for solidarity with strikes by farmworkers and sanitation workers, and protests by truckers.

These struggles and on-the-job actions by retail workers in stores across the country are examples of what can be done today to stand up to the bosses.

The current drive to win new readers to the *Militant* is helping spread the word about these fights. The drive also includes increasing the distribution of books by Socialist Workers Party leaders and other revolutionaries and raising \$115,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund. (See ad on page 7 for book specials during the drive.)

Both the *Militant* and books by revolutionary leaders are indispensable for learning how today's struggles are connected to decades of resistance by working people.

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Washington fruit packers strike over pay, hours, dignity

BY HENRY DENNISON

YAKIMA, Wash. — A walkout that began May 7 by workers at Allan Brothers Inc., a fruit processor in Naches, has become a strike wave running through packing plants in this major fruit growing and processing region.

As of May 16, workers at Columbia Reach Pack, Frosty Packing, and Hansen Fruit in Yakima, and Matson Fruit and Monson Fruit in the town of Selah are also on strike. Fueled by anger over employers' disdain for health and safety conditions on the job, the strikers have focused on longstanding issues of hours, wages and abuse.

There are a lot of packinghouses in and around the area. There have been fights to try to organize some of them, but so far it has remained a nonunion industry.

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Failed raid against Venezuelan gov't shows crisis of US-backed opposition

BY RÓGER CALERO

A failed mercenary raid that unraveled on the shores of Venezuela May 3-4 became the latest blow to efforts of U.S.-backed Venezuela opposition leader Juan Guaidó to overthrow the country's president Nicolás Maduro.

Launched from neighboring Colombia, the amphibious raid was dismantled by Venezuelan government forces and area fishermen soon after landing on the country's coast near Caracas. It aimed at “removing the current regime and installing the recognized Venezuelan President Juan

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‘Prosecute vigilantes who killed Ahmaud, expose the cover-up’



Militant/Sam Manuel

March in Brunswick, Ga., May 16 demands justice in Feb. 23 killing of Ahmaud Arbery.

BY SAM MANUEL

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — Shouts of “Justice for Maud” — Ahmaud Arbery's nickname — rang out from the Glynn County Courthouse steps here May 16. The protest was organized to keep the

pressure on authorities to prosecute the killing of the 25-year-old African American nearly three months earlier by two white vigilantes, Gregory McMichael and his son Travis. Many of the 600 in

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—On the picket line, p. 5—

Truckers' protest against low rates, red tape keeps growing

Germany’s high court ruling accelerates EU coming apart

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The economic and social crisis of capitalism weighing on working people worldwide, accelerated by the way the capitalist governments have responded to the coronavirus outbreak with far-reaching lockdowns on industry and trade, has greatly hastened the coming apart of the European “Union.”

In an unprecedented move, Germany’s highest court ruled May 5 against the validity of the European Central Bank’s nearly \$3 trillion bond-buying “stimulus” scheme. The court says it unduly interferes with the German rulers’ sovereign prerogatives. This decision signals Berlin taking steps towards abandoning the euro and return to the mark, its former national currency. This would tear the EU apart.

The insistence of EU bureaucrats in Brussels that they have the power to deploy member countries’ contributions to rescue crisis-ridden neighbors has become too much of a burden on the German capitalist class’s ability to pursue its own imperialist interests and maximize its profits.

In the ruling, the German court declared null and void a 2018 judgment by the European Court of Justice upholding the ECB’s bond-buying program. This scheme allowed the bank to print money to bail out EU member governments with some of the highest debts, including Italy and Spain. The ECB has purchased more than \$2.9 trillion in corporate and government bonds over the past five years through this “stimulus” scheme.

The rulers in Germany have used

the EU for decades to their advantage, sucking up profits at the expense of bosses — and on the backs of workers — in the weaker European capitalist powers. They aren’t about to let things start flowing the other way.

Either Germany’s rulers must pull back from this decision, *Wall Street Journal* columnist Walter Russell Mead wrote May 13, “or it must begin to think through the process of minimizing the fallout from the currency’s failure.”

The German court ruling gives the European Central Bank three months to try and make a case that these purchases should be continued. If it fails, Germany’s central bank, which contributes large amounts of the money used for the “stimulus” program, will cut off all funds.

This is the first time in its history that a ruling by the European Court of Justice has been challenged by an EU member state, let alone by its most powerful one.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen challenged the German court decision in a May 10 statement, raising the possibility that EU bureaucrats will file a lawsuit in the European court seeking to stop Berlin from violating “EU law.”

The German court’s “judgment amounts to a unilateral declaration of constitutional independence from the EU legal order,” the *Financial Times* editors announced May 13, backing von der Leyen. “Some have already compared it to South Carolina’s nullification of federal law in pre-civil war America.”



Sakis Mitrolidis

German court bars EU from using Berlin’s funding to bail out impoverished governments like Italy and Spain. German rulers offer instead to help EU make grants, accompanied by austerity regimens. Above, Nov. 6, 2012, rally in Greece against EU-imposed cuts on wages, pensions.

On May 18 Berlin joined Paris to propose a \$546 billion coronavirus “recovery fund.” The European Commission would borrow the funds and offer grants to the most indebted of the bloc’s governments, to be paid off after 2027. But to get a grant, an impoverished government would need to agree to a harsh austerity regime.

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde said this does nothing to solve the crisis the German court ruling poses for the EU. “The German central bank is under obligation to carry out the ECB’s decisions,” she said.

EU bureaucrats’ pipe dream

The EU was constructed to counter the competition of U.S. imperialism and rebuild capitalist exploitation in Europe after the mass destruction of the second imperialist war. It was built on the pipe dream that by uniting disparate governments in Europe it could, over time, grow into a continent-wide juggernaut of a superimperialist state. But the European “Union” is comprised of 27 separate capitalist states, in which the ruling classes pursue their own interests in search of markets and profits at the expense of their rivals.

The 1999 establishment of the euro as a common currency — today shared among 19 EU members — advanced the ability of the stronger north European powers, primarily Berlin and to a lesser degree Paris, to profit from plun-

dering working people in the weaker eastern and southern European nations that have lower levels of industrial and economic development.

These differences have been sharply accentuated as the crisis of capitalism has deepened. During the first three months of this year, the economy of countries using the euro shrank 14.4% — its fastest pace on record.

The sharpest divergence in the contraction was between the EU’s north and south regions. While the German economy shrank by 2.2%, Italy’s gross domestic product fell by 17.6% and Spain’s by 19.2%. Facing sharpening competition and rising government debts, the capitalist rulers in each of these countries seek to make workers pay for this crisis, stepping up attacks on jobs, wages and working conditions.

The Italian rulers, who presided over one of the wealthier founding members of what became the EU, today face ballooning debts and growing inability to pay back wealthy bondholders. Rome’s public sector debt was 136% of its gross domestic product at the end of last year.

Top credit agencies like Moody’s are considering putting a “junk” label on Italian debt, including \$2.6 trillion of its government bonds. The German capitalist rulers don’t want to be left holding the bag, with the European Central Bank looting their finances to bail out the Italian and other weaker, increasingly insolvent, ruling classes.

THE MILITANT

Fight to protect wages, working conditions!

“This has been going on long before coronavirus. We get paid late, everything is bad,” said Gregory Woods, a New Orleans sanitation worker who went on strike May 5. A growing number of workers are defying bosses and government isolation dictates to find ways to act together.



City Waste Union
New Orleans sanitation workers on strike fighting for higher pay and better conditions.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*’s views. These are expressed in editorials.

Cindy Jaquith: 55-year cadre of Socialist Workers Party

BY STEVE WARSHALL

MIAMI — Members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party gathered here May 10 to celebrate the life of Cindy Jaquith, a cadre of the SWP for 55 years. Jaquith died May 1 at 72. Participants in the celebration came from around Florida, Atlanta, New York, Pittsburgh and Louisville, Kentucky.

A five-panel display of photographs and articles highlighting the SWP's work over the past half-century, and Jaquith's many leadership contributions in helping advance the party, helped those in attendance see what a rich, politically productive life she lived.

More than 40 messages were sent to the meeting from comrades and friends who knew and worked with her. These included messages from Jonathan Silberman on behalf of the Political Committee of the Communist League in the U.K., and others from CL leaderships in Australia, New Zealand and Canada. One came from her sister Diane, describing Cindy's early life.

"Cindy was the second of four children raised in Lexington, Massachusetts, an affluent suburb of Boston," Diane Jaquith wrote. "Cindy excelled at school, and devoted much time to Girl Scouts, even attending the national roundup. She enjoyed teaching her younger sister how to cook and sew, and assisted with her sister's Brownie troop. The only trouble she ever got into was when, in high school, Cindy and her friends managed to steal American flags from every classroom and hid them."

Reaching to workers' struggles

"Some of Cindy's first writing assignments for the *Militant* were covering the coal miners' battles in Harlan County, Kentucky, in the early 1970s," Jacquie Henderson told the audience. Henderson worked with Jaquith when both were members of the Houston branch.

"Those early trips to the coalfields contributed to the SWP setting up a branch in Morgantown, West Virginia, and building a fraction of party members in the United Mine Workers union."

"Cindy became a worker-Bolshevik in the U.S. class struggle," said Paul Mailhot, speaking to the meeting on behalf of the SWP Political Committee. "From her involvement in the fight against the Vietnam War, the struggle for Black rights, building the movement for women's liberation, to the struggles in the coalfields and participation in many of the party's trade union fractions, these were the experiences that made Cindy a proletarian fighter of some standing. And made her so capable of helping to work with others, and report for the *Militant* on developments in the working-class movement internationally."

"When Cindy carried out an assignment to write about class-struggle developments," said Mailhot, "she was always a help to those she was working with, not just about being a better worker-correspondent but about being a better proletarian fighter."

That came across in the messages. "Cindy came out to Price, Utah, to cover the first Western Women Coal Miners Conference in 1985," wrote Cecelia Moriarity, a member of the party in Seattle. "She taught Charlene Adamson and me how to write for the *Militant* ourselves;

how to include what we thought were the important and exciting facts about this well-attended gathering. It was a lesson that we remember to this day."

1979 Iranian Revolution

In early 1979 a massive revolutionary mobilization of working people and youth overthrew the hated regime of the shah of Iran and opened the road for



Jan. 26, 1979, *Militant* headline describes mass mobilizations by working people in Iran that brought down hated regime of the shah. The next week Cindy Jaquith is in Iran to cover unfolding revolution.

millions to engage in politics. The *Militant* sent Jaquith to report from the scene — in January and February, and again at the end of that year and into 1980.

Mahmoud Shirvani described this work in a message to the meeting. "The weekly coverage Cindy provided as a worker-correspondent for the *Militant* — talking with workers, soldiers, Kurdish fighters, women demanding their rights, and others — is unparalleled by anything else written on the Iranian Revolution. She reported with a Bolshevik sense of the present as history."

The potential of the revolution in Iran was cut short by a bloody clerical-bourgeois counterrevolution. Working people there, however, have fought and kept space open for discussion of political ideas. Since 1992 Pathfinder Press has presented books by revolutionary working-class leaders at the annual Tehran International Book Fair.

Beginning in 1999 Jaquith went to Iran almost yearly for a decade to staff Pathfinder's booth, until visa restrictions made it no longer possible. Pathfinder's distributor in the United Kingdom has kept up the effort to this day.

Mailhot highlighted a message by Tony Hunt, from Pathfinder London who worked with Jaquith at the Tehran event. "Cindy could be stern, often demanding," he said. But that was "accompanied by a dead-pan delightful sense of humor."

"I remember her ability to pedagogically explain a political issue or describe the contents of a particular book for visitors at the fair in a way that brought it to life, like she was telling a story," Hunt wrote. "I learned a lot from Cindy: the firm leadership she displayed when it was needed and her discipline."

Jaquith's working-class journalism was a by-product of her primary commitment — being a proletarian revolutionist. In that regard, Mailhot said, the

political example she set as an SWP leader for revolutionary-minded workers in Iran was invaluable. "That was the party whose record they looked to for program and proletarian conduct," Mailhot said, "because the SWP leadership had been tested in the course of the class struggle and its response to popular revolutions worldwide."

The Managua bureau

From late 1985 to 1987 Jaquith was the organizer of the *Militant* reporting team stationed in Nicaragua covering the struggle of workers and farmers to defend their revolution.

"Within weeks of the 1979 overthrow of Somoza the party set up what became the Managua bureau to learn from the revolution and to tell the truth about what workers and farmers were accomplishing," Seth Galinsky, who worked with Jaquith there, wrote in his message.

"By late 1986, the revolution had begun to stagnate, even as some advances continued to be made," he wrote. "Working people dealt decisive blows to the U.S.-backed contras."

"Instead of using that victory to advance the revolution by deepening the participation of working people and youth, the FSLN leadership did the opposite," he said, "announcing that no more of land would be taken from the 'patriotic producers' to be given to the tens of thousands of landless peasants." The demise of the revolution followed a few years later.

Jaquith returned to Nicaragua in 1990 to organize some final reporting until the bureau was closed later that year.

Fight for women's emancipation

A number of displays and messages highlighted Jaquith's involvement in the struggle for women's emancipation.

"I first met Cindy in New York in the late '60s, after she transferred from Carleton College to Barnard," Susan LaMont, organizer of the Atlanta branch of the SWP, told the meeting. "This was a period of radicalization that deeply affected working people and youth — above all, the struggle that smashed



Militant/Anthony Dutrow

Cindy Jaquith, who was the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Miami in January 2017, talks with Robert Brooks III in West Perrine, Florida.

Jim Crow segregation in the South and strengthened the fight for Black equality in the North, the triumph of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, and the growing movement against Washington's war in Vietnam. The women's liberation movement came onto the stage at this time.

"The SWP recognized this would affect the course of the American Revolution, and the building and development of leadership of our own party," LaMont said. "Cindy helped to lead the growing participation of the SWP in the battles for women's rights. She was fearless in the debates that raged, helping set an example in taking on red-baiting attacks by those forces determined to take the struggle into the dead end of supporting capitalist politicians."

Jaquith took on many leadership responsibilities. She was elected national secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance at its 1970 national convention. She was a member of the SWP National Committee from 1976 through 1991, and attended the party leadership school in 1980. She joined the *Militant* staff in 1972 and wrote for the paper almost continuously through 1991, serving as the paper's editor for a number of those years. The *Militant* index includes more than 1,000 articles she wrote. Jaquith, no matter what her responsibilities, was an example of a lifelong worker-correspondent for the revolutionary press.

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SWP 'stimulus' appeal fund at \$85,400 and growing

Michele Smith sent the following note with her contribution to the Socialist Workers Party's special "stimulus" fund appeal: "At last, my economic impact payment arrived in the mail yesterday. I'm happy to send it."

Contributors to the special appeal now count at 75. The total stands at \$85,400 and growing!

The appeal is significantly augmenting the resources of the party. President Donald Trump's letter that accompanies the "stimulus" payments states there is a "we" — the workers and the bosses — that are all in this together. But the workers and the bosses don't have the same interests.

"I can think of no other purpose as worthwhile for my check," wrote Anthony Dutrow, a Walmart worker in Miami, "than to fund a party that stands up on the front lines fighting together in workers' struggles against the bosses."

The funds are allocated for capital, set aside for the SWP to deepen the building of a revolutionary proletarian party as the worldwide crisis of capitalism grows and the working class responds in the unfolding class struggle.

"Enclosed is my check for the SWP, in the traditions of the working-class movement," Ove Aspoy explained. "I wanted to share 'my good luck' with the SWP that will do a lot with the money."

If you'd like to join in donating your government payout, send a check to the Socialist Workers Party at 306 W. 37th Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018, marked "Special Fund." The *Militant* will continue weekly updates.

— EMMA JOHNSON

‘Militant’ gives voice to fights

Continued from front page

“The truckers’ fight to defend their livelihoods sets a powerful example,” Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy told Janet Sanchez, a dispatcher from Ocala, Florida. Kennedy and her running mate, Malcolm Jarrett, had traveled to Washington, D.C., to show solidarity with truckers there protesting price gouging by freight brokers and stifling government regulations.

“Either stay home or go out and fight,” Sanchez told them. “Being afraid just paralyzes us.”

Workers control of production

“The speed of any job — like all production — has to be under workers control,” Kennedy told Felipe Velez, an independent operator from Rancho Cucamonga, California, after he described the conditions drivers face. Velez got a subscription to the socialist newsweekly.

Earlier in the week the SWP candidates spoke with Carlos Lisboa, who works in a fruit and vegetable processing plant near Bridgeton, in a farm area in southern New Jersey.

“On my job they throw tons of food away every day!” Lisboa said. “I can’t stand it.”

If working people were in control of production, Kennedy said, this would not be allowed. Millions worldwide don’t have enough to eat.

“The capitalist class will try to pit the millions of unemployed against us,” to drive down wages and boost profits at our expense, Jarrett said.

“Yes. They keep telling us, ‘if you don’t want to do this job, other people will do it,’” Lisboa said.

“That’s why the Socialist Workers Party raises the demand for a public works program to put people to work building what we need,” Kennedy said. “If we’re stuck at home, we’re isolated and can get demoralized. Fighting for public works, as well as 30 hours work for 40 hours pay to spread around the available work, can prevent the boss class from pitting employed and unemployed against each other.”

Lisboa got a copy of the *Militant* and

wants to stay in touch.

Kennedy and Jarrett spent a week in New York and New Jersey, talking to working people and small proprietors in cities and rural areas, at taxi lines and in the neighborhoods where they live.

In Goshen, New York, an hour north of New York City, the candidates spoke with former farmworkers, teachers, laid-off cooks and food servers, and retirees. The small town is in the state’s “black dirt” farming area, which includes vegetable farms, orchards, horse ranches and manufacturing plants.

Many out of work in Goshen are immigrants who don’t qualify for unemployment benefits because they don’t have government-recognized work papers. The SWP candidates got a good response from many when they said they were for an amnesty for undocumented workers, to unite the working class.

“Every day from 9 to 3 I get on the phone to try to reach the unemployment office,” Rich Ávila, a laid-off waiter, told Jarrett. But “I haven’t been able to get through,” like millions of workers around the country.

Ávila liked the article in the *Militant* about sanitation workers on strike for higher wages and better working conditions in New Orleans. “The economic crisis is like a cancer,” Ávila said. Bosses “are not going to stop going after us unless we make them.”

Every fight for higher wages and better working conditions is important, Jarrett noted. To put an end to the exploitation that is the basis of capitalism once and for all, working people will need to wrest political power out of the rulers’ hands and establish a government of workers and farmers. Ávila got a subscription to the *Militant*.

The SWP candidates spoke to working people in parking lots at two Walmarts in New Jersey, as well as some of the store workers. Seven people bought subscriptions to the *Militant*, along with four books.

Kennedy and Jarrett also spoke with Erika Remigio, a hospital worker in Red Bank, New Jersey, who’s active in the fight for driver’s licenses and immigrant rights. Remigio noted that many immi-



Militant/Dan Fein

Naomi Craine, right, SWP candidate for US Senate, talks with Riquel Salas in Rochelle, Illinois. In two hours campaigners sold seven *Militant* subscriptions and 12 books in nearby trailer park, reflecting interest in how the party organizes solidarity with workers’ struggles.

grant workers have even less access to health care than U.S.-born workers.

With unemployment at record highs, the bosses will try to scapegoat immigrants to divide the working class. “That’s why it’s important not to give up the fight for amnesty for undocumented workers, especially now,” Kennedy said.

Transform the unions

Naomi Craine, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Illinois, and other campaign supporters met workers at a trailer park in Rochelle, over an hour west of Chicago.

May Elmore, laid off from a warehouse, told Craine that she had been a union steward at a previous job. “I was shocked at how much of the contract was aimed at protecting the company, not the workers,” Elmore said.

Craine showed her *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party* by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes and *Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions*. These books explain how to build a party that acts on the fact that working people are capable of fighting to change their conditions. It joins and advances the struggles needed to transform unions into fighting organizations. This defends the interests of all workers as well as farmers and other

exploited layers of the population.

Elmore got both books and a subscription to the *Militant*.

Members of the Communist Leagues in other countries are also taking advantage of the opportunities to extend the reach of the *Militant*.

Jonathan Silberman, Communist League candidate for London mayor, spoke with warehouse worker Shane Campbell in Park Wood, south of London. Silberman told Campbell what he had learned in discussions with farmworkers originally from Bulgaria and Romania about the conditions they face.

“I can see the fights in the offing, with rising unemployment and low pay,” Campbell said. “All we get on the news is virus, virus, virus. I’m interested in reading your coverage of the political questions we face.” He signed up for a subscription.

Cindy Jaquith

Continued from page 3

Anthony Dutrow, organizer of the SWP branch in Miami, spoke about Jaquith’s activity to build the party over the last five years here. “Cindy always overcame whatever obstacles were in her way in order to keep building the SWP. She was just getting started in the party’s fraction at Walmart last year when she was diagnosed with cancer. She beat it, and was welcomed back by her co-workers.

“Cindy could give a Militant Labor Forum talk that conveyed the party’s program for socialist revolution in a way that everyone could grasp,” Dutrow said. “She was able to do that because she understood the program, and deeply believed in it.”

Describing the times Jaquith practiced politics in, Mailhot pointed to remarks by Farrell Dobbs, a leader of the SWP and Teamster battles in the 1930s. “Some people,” Dobbs said, “have the good fortune to live more in a year than others at a different historical juncture could live in their whole lifetime.”

“And Cindy understood the necessity of building the revolutionary party and preparing for those battles that are coming,” Mailhot said. “She set a good example for all of us, and for the next generations of fighters who will continue along the course she set out on some 55 years ago.”

A collection of \$1,250 was raised at the meeting to honor and continue Cindy Jaquith’s lifelong work to build the Socialist Workers Party.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



June 5, 1995

JERSEY CITY, New Jersey — Some 500 people marched here May 17 to protest police brutality and demand justice for Julio Tarquino. He was arrested, handcuffed, and brutally beaten by off-duty police officers May 8. He died five days later.

Tarquino, 22, had stopped at a gas station, where he got into a confrontation with two men [who used a racial slur against him]. Off-duty cop John Chiusolo ran up and began hitting Tarquino. Tarquino was repeatedly kicked in the head while on the ground.

On May 9, nearly 150 protesters stormed into the Jersey City Council meeting to demand justice for Tarquino. Under increasing pressure, Jersey City authorities charged Chiusolo with murder. Many in the crowd expressed the view that the arrest of Chiusolo was just the beginning of the struggle. “We want him tried on homicide charges,” said Tony Morales.



June 5, 1970

LOS ANGELES — Aided by students and backed by other unionists, striking Teamsters here drove a major wedge in the united front of employers who had banded together in an effort to housebreak their union by weeding out militant rank-and-filers.

The break came when over-the-road operators yielded to the union demands ensuring amnesty for striking workers.

While the striking members of the Teamsters did not have the support of the officials of their international union, solidarity actions by fellow unionists in San Francisco and elsewhere in California were a major factor in the present victory.

With the union picketing limited by injunction, some individual strikers sought out students, who would not be liable under the injunction, to maintain the picket line at several key freight terminals.



June 2, 1945

In the first colonial uprising in the wake of Germany’s defeat, the people of Syria are engaged in fierce street battles with the troops of French imperialism. Syria and Lebanon, grabbed by the French government after World War I, were promised their freedom in 1939. When the war broke out the British, in connivance with the Free French Government, marched in to take control of this strategic territory with its valuable oil fields.

French garrisons have been augmented by Senegalese troops and native Syrian conscripts. In a week-long series of strikes, the Syrian people protested against the use of these troops to enforce French domination.

The Syrian National Guard issued a call for 5,000 recruits and 15,000 volunteered. Many Syrians conscripted into the French army are deserting and going over to the National Guard.

Truckers’ protest against low rates, red tape keeps growing

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

WASHINGTON — Now in its third week, over 300 truckers are protesting here with their rigs lining both sides of Constitution Avenue near the U.S. Capitol — twice as many as a week ago. The drivers demand relief from low freight rates imposed by brokers they have to get jobs from, onerous government regulations and worsening conditions.

Markcus Davis, his wife and two children drove here from Orangeburg, South Carolina. “We are fighting for the respect we need and deserve,” the 26-year veteran trucker told the *Militant*. “We’ve come together and we are staying together. I believe the media has been told not to cover our story, because of the support we can get.”

On May 14 a sister rally in Sacramento, California, was organized by the Punjabi Trucking Association. “Ten rigs were parked, truckers lined the streets with signs and others organized a drive-through,” said Tony Singh, a member of the group from Richmond, Virginia, who is part of the protest here. A solidarity protest of some 40 truckers also took place in Austin, Texas, May 15.

Many independent owners face bank-

ruptcy under conditions where brokers — who get orders from shippers and then offer the run to the truckers — dictate rates as low as possible to boost their own profits.

“You can only go into debt for so long,” Singh, a driver who runs a small trucking company, told the *Militant*. So-called “grace periods” are ending. They were offered by insurance companies for March and April, because of the drastic fall in trucking jobs due to government lockdowns that shuttered production and shipping. “I’m supposed to pay \$37,000 in insurance by the end of the week,” Singh said.

Elizabeth Williams from Green Bay, Wisconsin, joined the protest. She has been driving for over 20 years. “On my last two trips to the East Coast I drove back empty. I refuse to take a load for less than 80 cents a mile. They were offering me 59,” she said. “What the brokers are taking is ridiculous.”

Another major issue is government red tape. The owner-operators say they can operate safely, without government regulation.

“We want some control over how we run things,” said Wisconsin independent trucker and former dairy farmer Lee Schmitt. He said the mandatory



Militant/Tony Lane
SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy, left, with truck dispatcher Janet Sanchez at D.C. truckers’ protest against low rates imposed by brokers and onerous government regulations.

Electronic Logging Device “is an ankle bracelet in my truck,” comparing the device to prison GPS electronic monitors.

“Every year there’s a new regulation,” independent operator Mike Strange told Fox 7 in Austin. “It started with the logging device. This year it’s the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse.”

This is a new database set up by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration in January that requires all owner-operators to post records of any drug or alcohol infractions.

“You have to join it. I have to purchase a report from the government about my-

self,” Strange said. “If you don’t, you can get closed down.”

The carrier administration also regulates how many hours drivers can work, another regulation they hate. It’s currently suspended, but that ends June 14. The suspension should be permanent, Elizabeth Williams said. “We know how to do the job safely.”

The drivers say they aren’t going anywhere anytime soon.

James Harris from Washington, D.C., and Tony Lane from Pittsburgh contributed to this article.

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‘Prosecute vigilantes who killed Ahmaud Arbery’

Continued from front page
attendance came in a car caravan from Atlanta earlier that morning.

They also demanded the removal of two district attorneys who had been assigned to investigate the killing, Jackie Johnson and George Barnhill, for their refusal to arrest the shooters. Both ultimately recused themselves because they had connections with Gregory McMichael, a former cop and prosecutors’ investigator.

Thousands have protested since a video of the killing was released May 5, leading the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to arrest the two vigilantes two days later. The video shows Arbery out for a jog in nearby Satilla Shores when the McMichaels follow him in their pickup truck and confront him, arms in hand. After Arbery tries to defend himself, the video shows them gun the youth down.

The McMichaels told the cops who first interviewed them after the killing that Arbery had been seen on video entering a home under construction and may have been a burglar.

The video sparked outrage. Support for vigorous prosecution of the McMichaels and calls for ousting all those responsible for the cover-up have come from working people across the country, as well as celebrities, politicians and sports figures.

“We are here because of this brave family which has been leading this fight

for justice,” Mawuli Davis, an Atlanta attorney who helped organize the caravan, said as he introduced members of Arbery’s family at the rally.

“It’s been 74 hard days for our family,” said Thea Brooks, one of Arbery’s aunts, thanking rally participants. “When we were told that Ahmaud had been involved in an attempted robbery, we knew they were lying. That’s not Ahmaud!”

“At first we said, ‘Let them do their job.’ Then it was clear we had to ‘help’ them do their job,” she said. “That was followed by weeks of letter writing to the press, interviews, meetings with anyone we could get to listen.

“We wanted to let them know that what happened to Ahmaud was not going to be forgotten.”

The caravan of more than 125 cars that left from the Victory Outreach Church in Atlanta to join the protest was organized by the JustGeorgia coalition, along with statewide NAACP and American Civil Liberties Union chapters, Black Voters Matter, Southern Center for Human Rights and other groups.

“We only have to drive a few hours down here and back to Atlanta,” Paul Hopson, a history teacher, told the *Militant* at the rally. “This family has been fighting for much longer. This rally will help spread the word and keep up the pressure for justice.”

The same day 30 people joined a “Run With Ahmaud” rally in Evansville, Indiana. Many actions in solidarity with the fight for justice for Arbery have taken the form of jogging events. Some 200 people participated in a similar gathering in Waynesboro.

Vigilantes get organized

New evidence continues to emerge, shedding light on how the vigilante operation unfolded.

A text recently became public that

was sent to a Satilla Shores homeowner by Glynn County cop Robert Rash in December after there had been reports of unknown individuals going into an unfinished house. It makes it clear the cops were encouraging residents to work with Gregory McMichael to prepare for vigilante action.

Rash told the homeowner that former cop McMichael should be contacted if someone went into the house again. “Please call him day or night when you get action on your camera,” the cop texted.

According to news accounts some individuals in the neighborhood were organized to “watch the house.”

Videos provided by the attorney of the house’s owner show Arbery entering the site briefly just minutes before he was fatally shot. He took nothing and no property was damaged. Family members and the attorney for the house owner say it’s likely he stopped for a drink of water.

Cops in the county were familiar with Ahmaud Arbery from several run-ins. He had faced charges for weapon possession and shoplifting. Gregory McMichael led the investigation into the shoplifting charge.

When the McMichaels were told someone had been seen in the house again Feb. 23, Gregory McMichael grabbed his .357 Magnum and Travis got his shotgun.

After the killing, prosecutor Barnhill told cops not to arrest or file charges against the McMichaels. When he recused himself in April, he wrote this decision was proper because Georgia has a law permitting citizen’s arrests.

Those at the rally promised public actions will continue.

“We have to stand together when something like this happens,” Chloe Garth-Fielder from the Rome NAACP told the *Militant* at the Atlanta caravan sendoff. “We had to be here today.”

Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, fund						
April 4 - June 2 (week six)						
Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Received
UNITED STATES						
Albany*	55	45	55	36	\$6,300	\$3,665
Atlanta*	55	46	55	45	\$10,550	\$9,400
Chicago*	80	87	60	55	\$11,400	\$9,921
Dallas	20	22	20	20	\$2,500	\$2,197
Lincoln	10	7	10	9	\$250	\$270
Los Angeles*	70	59	60	36	\$10,800	\$9,283
Louisville*	55	49	55	43	\$3,900	\$3,472
Miami	20	12	20	14	\$3,500	\$2,629
N. New Jersey*	55	47	40	29	\$5,000	\$4,325
New York*	65	51	60	48	\$14,000	\$12,974
Oakland*	60	58	65	61	\$12,000	\$10,792
Philadelphia	20	18	20	20	\$3,000	\$2,380
Pittsburgh*	30	28	20	13	\$2,250	\$2,215
Seattle*	45	53	40	30	\$10,500	\$6,821
Twin Cities	20	20	20	13	\$3,500	\$3,485
Washington*	30	35	30	23	\$5,500	\$5,030
Other		2				\$600
Total U.S.	690	639	630	495	\$104,950	\$89,459
Prisoners	25	27				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London*	35	30	40	38	\$4,250	\$2,530
Manchester*	27	23	37	38	\$1,722	\$1,503
Total U.K.	62	53	77	76	\$5,972	\$4,033
Canada*	60	54	75	68	\$9,360	\$8,406
New Zealand*	15	12	15	12	\$3,000	\$3,000
Australia	20	14	20	12	\$1,500	\$1,000
Total	872	799	817	663	\$124,782	\$105,898
SHOULD BE	700	525	700	525	\$115,000	\$86,250
*Raised goal						

Support workers’ resistance

Continued from front page
off over 30 million workers in just a matter of weeks, sharply accelerating the decadeslong decline of their crisis-wracked capitalist system. Their only answer is to force more of the devastating social and economic burden onto our backs, in the U.S. and worldwide.

The working class has to be at work to organize and use our collective strength to push back the bosses’ offensive. We need to fight to end all the layoffs and demand the government pay for a massive public works program to provide jobs for those who don’t have them at union-scale wages to build things working people need. Otherwise, stuck at home, we cease being a *class*.

Strike struggles are taking place by fruit packing factory workers in Washington’s Yakima Valley, by sanitation workers in New Orleans, copper miners facing union busting by Asarco in Arizona and Texas, and elsewhere. Independent truckers have parked their rigs along Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C., demanding an end to unlivable rates imposed by brokers and red tape by the federal government.

The big majority of the 162 workers at Johnson Controls commercial HVAC assembly plant in Albany, Missouri, walked out May 19. The key issue is forced overtime and workers being fired for taking time off. Workers are forced to work six days a week, 10 hours a day.

“The workers are looking for some relief on flexible hours so they can start working to make a living instead of living to work,” Greg Chastain, business manager of Sheet Metal Workers Local 2, told the media.

The workers also say they face stagnant wages and deteriorating working conditions. Johnson Controls is a sizable international conglomerate, with over 100,000 employees worldwide. So far the bosses have refused further negotiations and are trying to keep the plant running using management.

All these fights deserve active solidarity from working people.

Bosses from the Big Three auto barons to department store owners and

restaurants increasingly want to see production running. Without it many fear being driven into bankruptcy — like J.C. Penney has been — or losing ground to rivals abroad.

They hope to crush their competitors — both other companies and rival capitalist powers — in conflicts over markets and profits. This is pulling apart the European Union and sharpening tensions between Washington and Beijing. In the years ahead, as the illusion of a peaceful “globalized” world is torn apart by increasing national antagonisms, more financial crises and trade and currency conflicts will shake the globe, threatening new wars.

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell admitted May 18 that unemployment could reach 25%, a figure comparable to that in the 1930s. These official government figures mask the real scale of joblessness, by not counting temps, self-employed, undocumented immigrant workers or those who work off the books. The U.S. economy could shrink by as much as a third in the second quarter of this year. As many job losses become permanent, capitalist investors’ expectations of a rapid “recovery” are receding.

Manufacturing output in the U.S. fell 13.7% in April, the steepest monthly drop in over a century. Retail sales — purchases at stores and restaurants — fell even more, by 16.4%. The number of coal mining jobs fell 12% nationwide in the last month to 43,800, accelerating a crisis for workers in many parts of Wyoming and Appalachia.

Worst-paid workers hit hardest

According to a Federal Reserve survey, the worst-paid workers are hit hardest by the lockdowns, with nearly 40% of those earning below \$40,000 losing their jobs and many more having their hours reduced.

The meritocratic upper-middle classes, on the other hand, are the most vocal advocates of still tighter policing of arbitrary government social isolation edicts, including preventing workers from getting back to work. They look down on workers as



Above, 200 Romanian workers on strike in Bornheim, Germany, over very low wages and poor conditions in asparagus harvest. German bosses flew in 300,000 Eastern European immigrant workers last year. Inset, one of 162 assembly workers who went on strike at Johnson Controls, Albany, Missouri, May 19 over being forced to work six days a week, 10 hours a day. Johnson Controls has 105,000 employees worldwide.

a dangerous class that carries diseases, ignoring the fact that without the working class they’ll have nothing to eat. The fact is, the working class is the only “essential” class.

The bosses, their media and their politicians push the false idea that “we are all in this together,” a part of their pandemic scare campaign. There is no such “we,” there are two sharply counterposed social classes — millions of workers and fellow exploited producers on the one side and a relative handful of bosses, bankers and their hangers-on on the other. They fear above all that as more and more toilers recognize this truth, they will fight to defend their interests and through those struggles recognize their own self-worth and historic responsibilities.

The crisis conditions are having a politicizing effect on working people, who increasingly are looking for an explanation for the social and economic catastrophe we face and a road forward.

In this capitalist crisis, working people face intensified exploitation of our labor, whether as wage slaves or debt slaves, yet it is this social labor that sustains the entire edifice of production, distribution and culture. It is the solidarity built by struggles of the working class and its exploited allies on the land that will provide the only possible solution to this historic crisis.

The Detroit automakers and supply companies from Canada to Mexico slowly restarted assembly lines May 18 after a two-month shutdown.

Some 11,000 workers at Tesla’s Fremont, California, plant, which makes electric cars, were recalled May 13. In April, those furloughed had their pay cut by 10%. Those laid off were told by the company that if they didn’t return to work immediately, they would risk losing their unemployment income. At the same time, Elon Musk, the billionaire owner of Tesla, took a \$700 million payout.

Airline bosses calculate it will be awhile

before people will start flying again, after the industry has been hard hit with a 90% collapse in air travel. Their plan is to drastically cut jobs.

An internal memo from Delta Air Lines said it is overstaffed by 7,000 pilots, half of its flight crew. United Airlines executives say they will only need 3,000 of 25,000 flight attendants in June. The big outfits that build planes, like Boeing and Airbus, have similar plans.

Crisis faces workers worldwide

The deepening crisis is taking a greater toll worldwide, from imperialist competitors in Europe and Japan to semicolonial countries. The U.N.’s International Labor Organization predicts that 1.6 billion street vendors and other so-called informal economy workers, especially in semicolonial countries, will suffer “massive damage” to their livelihoods.

Asparagus harvest workers have been protesting against abuse by the bosses in Bornheim, Germany. Garment workers in Bangladesh took to the streets to protest plant closings and the bosses’ refusal to pay back wages. Street vendors in the Kurdistan region of Iraq rallied to demand an end to government orders to shut down their shops.

Workers in Panama, Chile, Colombia and El Salvador have organized protests demanding jobs, lifting of government restrictions and aid for those blocked from working. Idled construction workers in Lagos, Nigeria, marched to demand they get back to work building an oil refinery in the Lekki Free Trade Zone.

This is just a beginning. From today’s resistance by workers and our allies will emerge the only solution to capitalism’s growing devastation.



US ‘health’ is capitalist business

Continued from front page

Public hospitals that depend for funding from government programs are in the worst shape. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered University of Brooklyn hospital in New York City to take only coronavirus patients in March. Nurses at the facility — which has a leaking roof and uses plastic tarps held together with duct tape to separate patients — had their workload doubled.

Inside the hospitals like the Mayo Clinic there are glaring expressions of class differentiation. “The Minnesota-based hospital system promotes its services to well-off patients,” the *New York Times* reported May 15, with “luxury amenities such as hotel-like suites with fluffy bathrobes, private dining rooms and access to chef-cooked meals.”

Care for elderly workers in nursing homes is the opposite. They are built to keep residents in tight proximity, to cram in as many as possible, with insufficient staff to provide care maximizing profits for the owners. Well before the current pandemic, an estimated 380,000 residents of nursing homes nationwide died from infectious diseases every year.

Under these conditions Cuomo ordered nursing home bosses to admit patients diagnosed with COVID-19, with no time or space to establish quarantine. The measure fueled the spread of the disease and ensured the deaths of thousands.

Hospitals close during pandemic

The pace of hospital closures in rural areas — and in working-class neighborhoods in many larger cities — has reached record highs in recent years.

Irish Debenhams workers keep up protests in fight for their jobs

BY PETE CLIFFORD

MANCHESTER, England — “We’re keeping the pressure up,” laid-off Debenhams store worker Jane Crowe told the *Militant* in a phone interview May 14. She and other workers are continuing to mount regular protests outside 11 of its chain department stores across the Republic of Ireland and at the Irish parliament in Dublin.

Bosses at the U.K.-based company announced its Irish business was going into liquidation April 19. Declaring bankruptcy allows bosses to avoid forking out severance pay to the 2,000 workers they threw out of work.

“We’re calling for government intervention to save jobs,” Crowe said.

She described messages of support the store workers have received from the Unite union at Waterford Crystal in Ireland, from union representatives at the Harland & Wolff shipyard in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and from rail workers here in Manchester. Meat workers from the Tulip plant in Ashton, Greater Manchester, also sent a solidarity message that says

Bosses say too many people pay with Medicare or Medicaid, and they can’t get the big bucks they need to make profits. The Mayo Clinic rakes in \$566 for each obstetric ultrasound for patients with private insurance — five times more than Medicaid pays for the same procedure.

Today’s crisis means more will go broke, as state governments order a halt to all “nonessential” procedures like colonoscopies, mammograms, even some cancer screening and treatment that reap in higher profits.

Some 30 million workers don’t earn enough to afford a health insurance policy. And insurance often has nothing to do with health *care*. An estimated 50 million more can only afford cheaper plans with daunting co-pays and deductibles, and simply can’t afford many procedures or treatment they sorely need.

The callous values of those who dictate what working people get was demonstrated last month by New York state officials who issued a “do-not-resuscitate” order for any patient paramedics picked up without a discernable pulse. The death sentence was ordered to “conserve resources,” they said. It was withdrawn after a public outcry.

Workers fight for health care

In the course of struggles against the bosses and their governments over wages and working conditions, workers will fight for access to health care as a basic human right.

One of the best examples was how coal miners and their families fought tenaciously to force the coal bosses and the government to take steps to push

workers there face “a pay freeze and a bigger workload, while being thanked for ‘feeding the nation.’”

While Debenhams pleads poverty it continues to make money online in Ireland. “It’s like they have two sets of books,” Crowe said. “One to say they have no money and another where they continue to make money.”

With backing from Mandate, their union, the workers plan to picket the stores to prevent bosses from removing the remaining stock and taking it to sell at their U.K. outlets.

A worker at a Debenhams store in Cork, Ireland, helped raise 15,000 euros (\$16,350) to give to the 69 workers also dismissed by Debenhams at its Liaison Office in Bangladesh. Unlike workers in Ireland, they don’t get unemployment benefits.

“We’re just numbers to Debenhams, whether in Bangladesh or Ireland,” Crowe said.

ITV News reports that Debenhams’ bosses told Bangladesh clothing suppliers they will only pay them 10% of the invoiced value of goods already supplied to the company for sale in the U.K. They have withheld payments of 53 million pounds (\$56 million). The clothing manufacturing bosses in Bangladesh blame Debenhams’ refusal to pay up for job cuts they are threatening to impose on garment workers in the industry there.



Wounded mercenary is treated after capture at defeated U.S.-backed Bay of Pigs invasion, 1961. Even before the revolution, July 26 Movement provided medical care equally to workers, peasants, its own combatants and enemy soldiers. Today health care is freely available to all.

back the debilitating black lung disease in the late 1960s. They forced state governments to establish clinics across the coalfields and provide disability benefits. Union safety committees were empowered to shut down production whenever they judged conditions were unsafe. In the process miners took back control of their union.

Since then these gains have been eroded by the bosses, and today the federal government is looking to get out of responsibility for assuring black lung benefits to retired miners. There will be no fundamental advance in “health care” as long as the capitalist class retains power.

The central leaders of the two great revolutions of the 20th century — Vladimir Lenin in Russia and Fidel Castro in Cuba — led working people to take power and transform social relations, including the organization of medical care.

Speaking at the Second All-Russia Congress of Medical Workers in 1920, after the Bolshevik-led 1917 revolution, Lenin noted that there was a time when “members of the medical profession entertained a distrust of the working class.”

“But now they, too, are convinced that

only together with the proletariat will it be possible to achieve a flourishing state of culture in Russia. Only collaboration between scientists and workers can put an end to oppressive poverty, disease and dirt. And this will be done.” For the first time in history working people and their state reorganized health care for all as a basic human right.

Cuba’s revolutionary leadership did not wait until the victory in 1959 to begin taking control over health care. They established field hospitals in the territories they conquered to treat all who needed care during the revolutionary war, including wounded enemy soldiers.

The 1959 victory and overturn of capitalist rule opened the door for working people to begin to run society themselves in the interests of all.

One result is that doctors live in the working-class neighborhoods they practice in, and organize to visit people regularly. This isn’t because they have a “better health care system,” but because of different social relations that could only arise from making a socialist revolution.

Working people are capable of doing the same thing everywhere.

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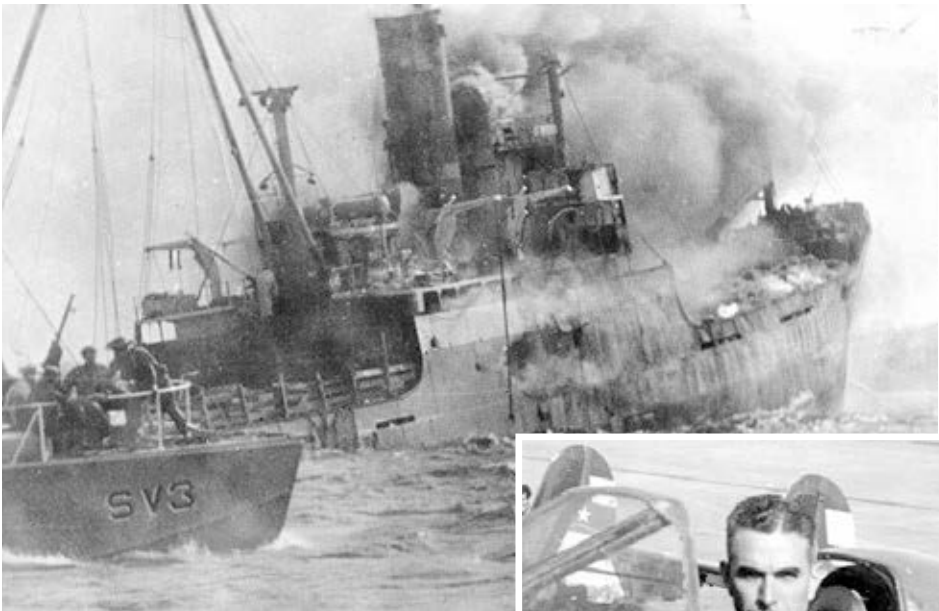
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How Cuban military commander was won to the revolution

The Spanish-language edition of Making History: Interviews With Four Generals of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces by Enrique Carreras, Harry Villegas, José Ramón Fernández and Néstor López Cuba is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for May. The first piece below is from an interview with Carreras, about how he was won to a lifetime of revolutionary activity. Before the popular triumph of the Cuban Revolution, Carreras was an air force officer who had trained in the U.S. during the Second World War. He opposed the U.S.-backed coup by Fulgencio Batista in 1952 and joined the revolutionary movement led by Fidel Castro. The excerpt is from "War of the Entire People Is the Foundation of Our Defense." The second piece is from his biography that accompanies it. Copyright © 1999 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

ENRIQUE CARRERAS: In the course of World War II, while in the United States, I observed many things. For example, I had never before seen women occupying posts previously held only by men, or training alongside men. At the time of the war there was still a lot of machismo in Cuba. We did not want to see women in the streets alone going to the store, much less working outside the home, even in the fields. The revolution



Above, Granma
At Bay of Pigs in April 1961, U.S. transport ship Houston, carrying counterrevolutionary invaders, was sunk by fledgling Cuban revolutionary air force. Inset, Enrique Carreras led the pilots in action.

has been eliminating all that machismo. At Kelly Field I saw women training as pilots and gunners for ferrying B-25 bombers from bases in the United States to Canada, and sometimes even to Britain.

That was my first experience in the United States. What I learned there — the training I received as a combat pilot — I subsequently taught to the pilots we trained in the early years of the revolution, including those who fought at Girón. The same tactics the U.S.-organized forces used in attacking Cuba, we applied against them. But we were defending a just cause, while they were coming to reconquer what they had lost. So we're not talking about moral equivalents. ...

[By 1955], the political situation in Cuba was very bad. In March 1952 Batista had seized power in a military coup.

On July 26, 1953, the Moncada army garrison was attacked. This assault was the motor that drove the revolution forward, even though it failed militarily. The attackers were not able to take the garrison, distribute arms to the people, and open the offensive against Batista — which is what they intended to do. Some of the combatants were murdered right there in the Moncada on Batista's orders. Others were convicted and sent to prison, serving their sentences on the Isle of Pines. ...

Like a number of other soldiers and officers in the armed forces, I was op-

posed to the Batista dictatorship. ...

I was arrested, tortured, court-martialed, and dishonorably discharged by the tyranny. They initially asked for the death penalty. I served time in various prisons, including La Cabaña. Then they sent me to the Isle of Pines, where I began to get to know the revolutionaries who were imprisoned there. ...

[C]ompañeros from the July 26 Movement who had come on the Granma were imprisoned there. Young people from the Revolutionary Directorate and people from the Popular Socialist Party were also there. All of them were there together.

The political views I held at that time came from the army. Anticomunism and hatred for the Soviet Union had been drummed into my head. That's what they taught us in the academies. I didn't know what a communist was, but everything I had heard about them was bad. I was influenced by all that propaganda.

While serving time in prison, however, I got to know all of them — [Jesús] Chucho Montané and other compañeros from the Granma; Lionel Soto; the compañeros from the Directorate.

By the time the revolution triumphed, I was no longer the anticommunist I had been before. I had become a progressive, a revolutionary. And then I witnessed all the acts of aggression organized by the U.S. government in the early years. I came to understand

how wrong everything they taught me had been. I learned in the course of the struggle, and that's the best way.



After the revolution's triumph at the opening of 1959, Carreras ... was assigned by Fidel Castro to train a corps of pilots.

In April 1961, at the Bay of Pigs, the day they were preparing for arrived. As a prelude to the U.S.-backed invasion, the air force bases in San Antonio de los Baños, Santiago de Cuba, and Ciudad Libertad in Havana were bombed on April 15 by CIA-trained counterrevolutionaries flying planes whose markings had been painted to appear to be those of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR). Seven people were killed and fifty-three wounded. Cuba's few existing planes had been dispersed on Castro's instructions. Only two were destroyed.

The following day, at a mass rally to honor the victims of the attack and to mobilize the entire population for the coming war, Fidel Castro proclaimed for the first time the socialist character of the Cuban revolution.

Expecting an invasion at any moment, the commander in chief ordered Carreras and the other pilots to remain by their planes at all times. They slept on the runway beneath the wings of their aircraft.

On April 17, at 4:45 a.m., Carreras was urgently called to the telephone. Fidel Castro was on the line. A mercenary army was invading Cuba at Girón Beach on the Bay of Pigs. Castro issued immediate orders:

"Carreras, there's a landing taking place at Playa Girón. Take off right away and get there before dawn. Sink the ships transporting the troops and don't let them get away. Understood?"

"Understood, commander."

Over the next seventy-two hours, the air squadron Carreras headed, consisting of ten pilots and eight dilapidated planes inherited from the armed forces of the dictatorship, was decisive in defeating the U.S.-organized invasion. The Cuban planes brought down nine B-26 bombers flown by the counterrevolutionaries and U.S. pilots, sank a number of their ships, and hounded the mercenary troops on the ground. Carreras himself shot down two aircraft, and the fighter plane he was flying was hit twice by enemy fire.

May

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Demand jobs! Back workers’ struggles!

Continued from front page

for working people. They are examples of what we can do to stand up to the bosses and their government, and to their attacks on jobs, wages, working conditions and many other abuses.

As packing workers and truckers fight to win more co-workers to join them, workers everywhere should build solidarity with their struggles. This helps strengthen our own fighting capacities. Join us in using the *Militant* to get out their story.

Democratic and Republican politicians say “we” have a common stake in getting “our economy” up and running safely. But there is no “we.” And what they call “our economy” is a system of capitalist exploitation based on their ownership of the factories, fields and other workplaces where they profit from our labor power. Whatever they do is aimed at strengthening their exploitation of our class and to put obstacles in front of workers’ efforts to organize.

What workers need above all is to break down the divisions separating those of us working and those of us robbed of the chance to make a living by steps the bosses and their governments took that threw one out of four members of our class out on the street.

- The SWP proposes workers fight for a federally funded public works program to put millions back to work at union-scale wages to create jobs building nursing homes, hospitals, schools, housing and more that working people need.
- And we need to fight for a 30-hour work-week at 40 hours pay to keep fellow workers on the job as opposed to bosses’ plans for deeper layoffs.

Workers need to be at work — the main place where we draw strength from acting together and can rebuild union power in the course of our struggles to fight for what we need.

The capitalist rulers say their moves — shuttering

the economy, locking us down in our homes, and now debating at what pace to restart production — are all done with our safety in mind. There can be no fight for safety, health or anything else without workers being at work. There we can organize to begin wresting control of all aspects of production from the hands of bosses, who demonstrate over and over they care nothing about us, other than pushing us to maximize their profits.

- The fight for workers control of production is the road to win control over jobs, line speed, work conditions, and the impact of production on the land, sea and air; to counter the bosses’ refusal to produce what workers need and to unlock their business accounts to reveal to all how their class works to expropriate more and more of the wealth our labor produces.

The more control we take of production the more we learn about our own capacities to run society — something that is possible if we organize in our millions on a course to take power out of the hands of the capitalist class.

- To lead that struggle workers need to build our own party, a labor party. It would mobilize support from working people for those demonstrating against the cover-up of the vigilante killing of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia to those demanding relief from joblessness from Bangladesh to Panama.

It would explain why workers should break with the Democrats and Republicans, the twin political parties of the capitalists, who rule to defend their crisis-ridden social system. Above all it would show, as working people in Russia in 1917 and in Cuba in 1959 have proved — that the working class taking political power into their own hands and running society is in the interests of the vast majority.

Join us!

Failed Venezuela raid shows crisis of opposition

Continued from front page

Guaidó,” according to a contract signed between Silvercorp USA and key figures in the pro-imperialist opposition.

The raiding party was comprised of 50 to 60 Venezuelan armed forces defectors and two former U.S. Army special forces veterans put together by the Florida-based “security” contractor.

Guaidó sought to deny his involvement in the planning and execution of the operation, but his signature was on the contract, designated as “commander in chief.”

The coup plotters sought to finance the operation by tapping wealthy U.S. capitalists and promising them access to bidding for Venezuela government contracts once Guaidó was in office. Silvercorp settled on \$210 million to be paid from Venezuela’s future oil earnings.

With bipartisan support the Donald Trump administration has backed Guaidó, who proclaimed himself president in January 2019. He has led a series of failed attempts to provoke a military coup and uprisings to overthrow Maduro.

The opposition has been vociferous supporters of Washington’s trade and financial sanctions against Venezuela, which hit working people the hardest. It calls for further violations of Venezuela’s sovereignty by the U.S. rulers.

One crushing effect of U.S. sanctions that block oil exports and imports of chemicals and parts to run Venezuela’s refining industry is widespread gasoline shortages in the oil-rich country.

The botched coup took place after years of deepening capitalist crisis that has led to shortages of medicine, food and other basic necessities for

working people, as well as soaring price rises. This worsened in April with inflation hitting 80%.

Since 2015 some 5 million of the country’s population of 30 million have fled these ruinous conditions to live abroad.

The current crisis is the result of the world capitalist downturn, accelerated by government lockdowns that followed the COVID-19 epidemic, and the impact of the U.S. rulers’ sanctions. But it’s also the result of the course of the Maduro government and his predecessor, Hugo Chávez, who sought to use profits from the country’s vast oil industry to fund welfare programs. They attempted to administer the capitalist market rather than organize working people to deepen their own struggles and fight for their interests against the capitalist rulers.

Washington denies involvement

U.S. government officials have denied direct involvement in the failed coup. “If we ever did anything with Venezuela it wouldn’t be that way,” said President Trump May 8, threatening, “It’d be called an invasion.”

The U.S. rulers, however, do have a long record of organizing coups in defense of their economic and political interests in the region and beyond — from the 1954 overthrow of Guatemala’s government of Jacobo Arbenz, to their role in the removal of President Manuel Zelaya in Honduras in 2009, to name just two.

The real target of U.S. imperialism is the workers and farmers of Venezuela.

Washington’s assaults on Venezuela are deeply tied to its decadeslong economic war against the Cuban Revolution. The Cuban government has over 20,000 medical and other volunteers in the country and receives some oil supplies from Caracas. The Trump administration has stepped up Washington’s sanctions against both Cuba and Venezuela. Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden has made it clear that if elected he would continue Washington’s sanctions on Cuba.

Fruit packers strike

Continued from front page

“Allan Brothers said they can’t pay us more because they spent so much on the new warehouse. That’s not *our* problem,” Shauri Tello, a packing worker, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent.

After workers at Allan Brothers struck, they contacted the farmworkers union, Familias Unidas por la Justicia. Union President Ramón Torres and other members immediately went to join the strikers, working with them to organize themselves, elect strike committees to help lead the walkout, and to draw up concrete demands to present to the company. Many of the strikers have joined the union.

Not everyone has stayed away from work, and those on strike continue to reach out to those who went back. Strikers distributed flyers May 11 listing the demands of the strike to those who came to work. A number of workers walked out and joined the strike. At midday word came that workers at Roche Fruit Packing in Yakima had walked off the job. Among the chants on the picket line was “No estamos solos.” (“We are not alone.”)

Then word came that the Roche workers had won a \$100 a week raise.

As word spread, workers struck Frosty Packing, Matson Fruit, and Monson Fruit May 13.

Aura Ramos, who works at Monson and has eight years in the packing industry, explained what lies underneath the strikes. “When the warehouses lose a day of work, even though it isn’t our fault, they want to make up the lost time,” she said. “So basically we do the work of two or three people and they don’t pay us any extra. It’s too much to do the work of those two or three people.

“And it’s difficult because over time it hurts your body. There are lots of people who have worked years in the warehouses whose arms are injured. The work is heavy and it damages your arms,” she said. “This is why we’re fighting. The money is important but also we don’t want them to make us work more than what is necessary or fair. We can’t endure what they’re doing.”

Issues of workers’ dignity have also been raised. At Allan Brothers workers are demanding the right to use the bathroom without harassment by the boss. At Monson workers raised needing more than one women’s bathroom in a department where 50 women work.

Workers from all the struck plants organized a car caravan May 14 going from picket line to picket line, starting at 6 a.m. at Allan Brothers. When they got to Monson Fruit they assembled and approved a proposal from the strike committees to make it one single strike with one list of common demands.

One of their demands is for a guaranteed 40-hour week. Many workers say they’re often scheduled for only 20 hours, but are pushed to produce what they do in 40.

Workers walked off the job at Hansen Fruit and Columbia Reach Pack the same day.

The workers are demanding a pay increase; proper sanitation, equipment, and enough room to work in to provide protection against the coronavirus; a minimum of 40 hours a week; recognition of seniority on the job; and no reprisals for joining the strike.

I joined the caravan carrying a placard with one of the key demands the Socialist Workers Party is raising today: “For workers control of production.” One of the strikers came over and asked if she could carry it, saying it expressed how she felt. She carried it for the rest of the day.

Talks between strike committee members and management have begun, but the picket lines are staying up.

“This isn’t just for the people out here. This is for all of us,” said Dennis Trimble, who works at Matson Fruit. “Just let us do our job without harassment. We just want to be treated like people.”

Henry Dennison is on the ballot as the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor in Washington.

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Correction

The person in the photo holding a sign that accompanies the article “School, Municipal, Cleaning Workers Win Strike in Iceland” in *Militant* issue no. 20 was misidentified. Her name is Frida Hammer.